

## **10. ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION AND OUTLOOK**

The NOAA Fisheries strives to create economically and biologically healthy fisheries. By identifying and addressing emerging issues in a timely manner, the HMS Management Division can work towards achieving and maintaining the balance of biological and economic imperatives necessary to realize NOAA Fisheries' goal of stable, prosperous, and sustainable HMS fisheries.

The list of topics provided in this section serves as a means of introducing important unresolved, and in some cases, novel HMS management issues. This section is included for discussion purposes and is based on input from the general public, federal advisory panels, staff concerns, and other forums. The order of issues does not reflect any order of importance, and this list is not meant to be an exhaustive list of management issues facing the HMS Management Division. Rather, the intent is to inspire discussion on these topics trigger identification of other important issues, and in some cases take regulatory action if necessary. NOAA Fisheries welcomes further input on issues pertaining to HMS fisheries. This section will also serve as a starting point for discussions by the joint HMS and Billfish Advisory Panels.

### **Possible Issues for Future Rules and/or FMP Amendments**

#### **Tunas**

1. Development of a rebuilding plan for Northern Albacore
2. Bluefin quota allocations
3. Individual transferable quotas
4. Tag and release v. Catch and release program
5. Spotter planes

#### **Billfish**

6. Scope of Certificate of Eligibility Form
7. Tournament registration and reporting - electronic v. call-in system
8. Recreational reporting - electronic v. call-in system
9. Estimating recreational effort and released fish

#### **Swordfish**

10. Quota allocations (incidental, directed, recreational category)
11. Use of reserve category
12. Quota adjustments - "large" underharvests or overharvests
13. Recreational bag limit inseason adjustment authority
14. Recreational reporting mechanisms

#### **Sharks**

15. Allocations (directed, incidental, reserve)
16. Recreational quota and reporting mechanisms
17. Quota adjustments - "large" underharvests or overharvests
18. Large coastal shark trip limit for directed permit holders
19. Reduce bycatch in gillnet fishery - e.g., gear modifications

**General**

20. Essential Fish Habitat five year review
21. Combine HMS and Billfish FMPs
22. Kill v. Catch and Release Tournaments
23. Aquaculture and Fish Farming
24. Fishing year v. Calendar year
25. Circle v. J hooks
26. Authorized gears
27. Improving outreach to anglers

**Definitions**

28. Pelagic v. Bottom longline
29. Tournaments v. “rodeos”
30. International chartering agreements - bareboat charter v. charter

**Tuna Longline/Shark/Swordfish Limited Access Program**

31. Upgrading restrictions
32. Incidental trip limits
33. Gear based v. species based permit
34. Further rationalization of permits with harvesting capacity
35. Revisiting handgear permit issuance

**Bycatch Reduction**

36. Examining the efficacy of existing pelagic longline time/area closures
37. Sea turtle bycatch mitigation as a result of the Northeast Distant experiment
38. Time/area closures for gears other than longline particularly in nursery areas
39. Use of VMS
40. Bottom longline closure off the Florida Keys to protect smalltooth sawfish
41. Coordinating with closures in other fisheries (e.g., Madison and Swanson, Steamboat Lumps)
42. Implementing other Items in Bycatch Reduction Implementation Plan

**Recordkeeping and Reporting**

43. Streamlining reporting process and/or revising/creating logbooks for all fishermen and dealers (e.g., one logbook for each fishery, electronic logbooks)
44. Tournament reporting (e.g., electronic, call-in, logbooks)
45. Recreational surveys v. direct reporting for all HMS
46. Observer coverage on all fishing vessels including recreational
47. Paying for observer coverage on fishing vessels

**Workshops**

48. Purpose (e.g., species identification, regulations, use of release equipment)
49. Commercial and/or Recreational
50. Mandatory or voluntary

- 51. Implementation issues (where, captain/crew/owner, presentation e.g. video/web/live)
- 52. Compliance monitoring

**Exempted Fishing/Scientific Research/Public Display Permits**

- 53. Issuance in compliance with rebuilding plans
- 54. Monitoring and enforcement issues

**Review of State Regulations Under the Atlantic Tunas Conservation Act and Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act**

- 55. Formal review of swordfish and billfish regulations under ATCA
- 56. Update tuna review under ATCA
- 57. Formal review of shark regulations under Magnuson-Stevens Act